



CULLODEN
ACADEMY

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CULLODEN ACADEMY RESPONSE TO THE CAREERS EDUCATION SURVEY 2021

We'd like to thank you for your feedback in the May survey. All 102 responses have been collated and your comments analysed. What is apparent based on these returns is that the current provision is not clear nor sufficient. Below is a summary of what we are currently doing and what we intend to add in light of the feedback.

1. Explain what provision you are aware of yourself or your child being given.

The majority of comments were suggesting little to no information is being provided. A number of comments made reference to a general chat in class with a Guidance teacher, a specific 1-1 session with the Guidance teacher or SDS Careers Advisor Miss Dowell. A number noted information being posted on Google Classroom or the pupil is referred to My World of Work (the national careers based website) for more information.

2. What would be your preferred method of getting information about career pathways, work experience, or job opportunities?

- 78.8% of respondents would like to be contacted via email
- 12.1% of respondents would like careers information to be posted on the school website
- 4% of respondents would like careers information to be posted via social media
- 3% of respondents would like careers information posted in the schools daily bulletin
- 2% of respondents would like careers information posted on the PSE google classrooms

3. How often would you like this information provided?

- 59.4% of respondents would prefer the information monthly
- 37.6% of respondents would prefer the information weekly
- 3% of respondents would prefer the information daily

4. Are there any particular times of the year that you feel you would like more careers information and conversations to happen?

- Term 1 – 15.9%
- Term 2 – 26.8%
- Term 3 – 41.5%
- Term 4 – 15.9%

What we currently do:

- Up to now careers education has been provided throughout S1-6- usually through PSE lessons.
- Pupils sit down with their Guidance Teacher at least once a year and are asked about their career plans. This is recorded and the information shared with departments.
- Pupils are encouraged to speak with their Guidance Teacher regularly if they have more questions and they may in turn ask pupils to research more information using the My World of Work (MWOW) website.
- Skills Development Scotland (SDS) will also spend time in PSE classrooms with pupils from S1-6 building their career education but will also be available for 1-1 interviews with all pupils, prioritising S4-6 and those who may require the most support with their transition plans.
- Careers opportunities are provided via a weekly bulletin collated and sent out to S4-6 Google Classrooms by Guidance staff, with specific opportunities being offered to pupils identified as having an interest in that topic area.
- Career specific events have had a lull in the past year due to Covid, but recently restarted with a range of online and outside events for a selection of career options delivered by outside providers including the Army, medicine and childcare. These events are advertised on PSE classrooms and pupils asked to volunteer for them or can be targeted by Guidance staff to participate.

What we intend to do to improve:

- Disappointingly, however, this survey has shown that the information provided is not enough, does not make a significant impression on pupils and obviously does not provide the information they actually need/want. We also acknowledge the lack of communication with you as parents/carers and want to improve this.
- The Guidance staff along with Fionna Dowell the schools SDS Careers Advisor and our new DYW (Developing the Young Workforce) coordinator Dawn Gillies, have created a calendar of events to provide careers education throughout the year. They have tailored it to provide the best support at the right time for each year group focusing on term 2 and 3 as suggested through your feedback.
- For obvious reasons careers events have been absent for a few years however there is a Careers Fayre for S3-6 in the school calendar for January 2022 to help support career-based decisions at choice of course times. Whilst working on this, we want to ensure we keep parents up to date with careers based information so intend to send out careers information to parental emails of pupils in S4-6. Through this communication you will gain the same information as pupils which will be posted onto PSE Google classrooms too. As we trial this new method of communication, please bear with us and any feedback on this method is appreciated.
- We have also organised mock interviews for S4 pupils with employers in November and we hope to improve our school website to include all the members of the support team and their direct links, plus providing lots more information about what opportunities are out there and how to make the best career choices for your child.

5. Any other feedback (Summarised and paraphrased below)

- *'More specialist ASN support for transition phases'*
- *'Talks from real employers about real jobs'*
- *'More awareness of other opportunities'*
- *'Work experience placements'*
- *'More realism over wages for certain jobs'*
- *'Preparation for the job market'*
- *'Invite parents into careers interviews'*

What we intend to do to improve:

- We have reacted to your feedback and created a new remit for one of our existing Guidance staff member who will now focus on providing additional support for our pupils with additional support needs. This role will mean that more transitional events and specialist support will be provided to ensure we are supporting our most vulnerable pupils appropriately. Mr McKnight has taken on this role and can be contacted with any query or question you have. We have improved our links with outside providers (Calman Trust, Barnardos and Enable Scotland) who focus on ensuring a positive pathway for all pupils by improving their employability skills through experiential working within a heavily supported setting.
- We have recently added to our support team through a newly created role called a DYW Schools Coordinator who will work part time within the school to help support the school's development of their curriculum to reflect the world of work. She will support our teaching of employability skills in all subjects and to help develop and manage school events related to careers education. Miss Gillies works with staff and local employers to provide opportunities for pupils to learn about the world of work, which should therefore address some of the issues noted above.
- In addition, SDS Careers Advisor Fionna Dowell is keen for parents to join her 1-1 careers interviews virtually, although she herself is working back in school so will meet with pupils in person. Just get in touch with her or your child's guidance teacher should you need a virtual meeting link to be provided for you to join this conversation.

We would like to reassure all parents and pupils that we have heard your views and endeavour to make our provision better with regards to careers education. We know that school is more than just academic qualifications and we have a responsibility to appropriately prepare pupils for the world of work so will do our best to improve the current provision to make it better for all pupils.

Any further questions to clarify or additional concerns, please contact:

Vikki Forrester – Depute Pastoral Support – vikki.forrester@cullodenacademy.org.uk

Jennifer Watt – PT Guidance – jennifer.watt@cullodenacademy.org.uk

Kevin McKnight – PT Guidance (ASN transition) – kevin.mcknight@cullodenacademy.org.uk

Best wishes,



Dr J Vance

Rector